

application of International Patent Application PCT/US97/14548, filed August 15, 1997, which
is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/696,753, filed June 16, 1996, now
U.S. Patent No. 5,710,137.--

REMARKS

Prior to examination of the above-captioned application, Applicants respectfully request
consideration of this amendment and remarks made herein.

Claims 1-3 are pending.

Applicants have amended the first paragraph of the specification to update the cross
reference to related applications to indicate that the above-captioned application is a continuation
application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (b) of prior copending U.S. Patent Application No.
09/251,124, filed February 16, 1999, presently allowed, which is a divisional application of
International Patent Application PCT/US97/14548, filed August 15, 1997, which is a
continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/696,753, filed June 16, 1996, now U.S.
Patent No. 5,710,137. Another version of this replacement paragraph is not required under 37
C.F.R. 1.121(b)(iii). No new matter has been added by this amendment.

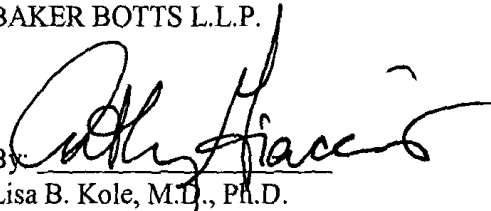
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, favorable consideration of this application is earnestly solicited.

Applicant believes no fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,

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